

STOW TV and LOCAL ACCESS CHANNEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2011

The Local Access Channel Advisory Committee (LACAC) (formerly PEG) was created by the Board of Selectmen in 2002 for the purpose of establishing a local cable TV access channel for the Town of Stow to provide programming in areas of public affairs, education and town government. Funding for operations is provided through license agreements negotiated by the Stow Cable License Advisory Committee with Comcast and Verizon.

“Stow TV” is available on Comcast Channel 9 and Verizon Channels 32 and 33. Stow operates with volunteers and provides video access to town residents. Residents are welcome to use Stow TV equipment for video recording or editing. Stow TV will provide training. Anyone interested in volunteering or contributing video or photos, or assisting productions may call 978-897-7732 or email stowtv@stow-ma.gov. Stow TV is on the web at www.stowtv.org.

In 2011, Coordinator Anne VanTine managed overall operations of the station. Assistant Coordinator Kathy O’Keefe created, implemented, and publicized program schedules. She also created announcements and displays of photos on the bulletin board. As Technical Assistant, Lew Halprin made improvements to recording setups and devised innovative and practical solutions for various recording situations.

Stow producers, in collaboration with Bolton access television, expanded coverage to include the regional high school activities this year. Stow TV also increased its collaboration with the Stow PTO, which helped in planning for and covering elementary school events.

Lew Halprin, Linda Stokes, Mike Jordan, Jonathan Daisy, Marika Barnett, Dan Nicholson, and Anne VanTine produced, recorded, and edited shows seen on Stow TV. Linda Stokes recorded most of the Selectmen meetings. Ralph DeFlorio, Scott Glorioso, and Paul Trunfio assisted with sound for some recordings. There were over 900 shows in the video archives at the end of 2011

Stow TV cablecast about 264 different shows during the year. These included 25 Selectmen, 15 School Committee, and two Town Meetings. Residents additionally produced about 142 new shows. From the Stow TV archives, about 55 shows were replayed, often to promote annual events. Residents requested about 26 more shows produced outside of Stow.

Stow TV helped educate residents about local issues and the actions of their government. Besides Selectmen, School Committee and Town Meetings, about 26 other town government events, and 15 state government topics were shown. The bulletin board encouraged voter participation with registration and election information.

Many shows entertained and educated with a focus on Stow. These shows covered a wide array of concerts, school events, and local organizations. On the frivolous side, Stow videographers created and produced a special “April Fool’s Day” show that starred the Stow Selectmen along with the video crew and other residents.

Stow TV implemented hundreds of colorful, eye-catching announcements on the “bulletin board.” Local event announcements were updated regularly based on requests from community organizations. Many of the announcements provided public health and safety information and promoted local charities.

Many photo shows were displayed on the bulletin board. Local contributing photographers included Nancy Arsenault, Jonathan Daisy, Jon French, Ralph Fuller, Lew Halprin, Dick Luxner, Dwight Sipler, Jay Solomon, Greg Troxel, and Paul Trunfio.

Stow TV and LACAC contributed to renegotiation of the town’s cable contract with Comcast. They researched Stow TV equipment, operating, and personnel needs to determine what support the station would require over the next ten years. The resulting “Ascertainment Document” was approved by the Board of Selectmen and will be used in contract negotiations.

Bob Mong and Beth Tobey provided IT support. Stow TV engaged Michael Ridinger for video server support. Gerry Horne managed Town Meeting sound. LACAC met several times during the year. LACAC members contributed time, advice, and oversight for spending and policy decisions, and LACAC member Bob Glorioso advised on equipment selection. Gary Bernklow replaced Steve Dungan as Selectmen’s representative to LACAC in June, and Steve stayed on as an Associate Member.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Bernklow
Chris Funkhouser
Robert Glorioso

Len Golder
Lisa Lavina
Stephen Dungan, Associate Member
Anne VanTine, Stow TV Coordinator